

Paul Callighan brought the March 2, 2010 minutes before the board for approval. There were no additions or corrections.

Motion: Bates

Second: Becherer

Approved

- II. Dislocated Worker Program Update Intake/Process – Discussion Item:** Granada Williams provided an update on the progress made to address the volume of dislocated worker applicant and participants in the program. RVC has hired seven additional staff to help in the clerical and counseling areas of the Dislocated Worker Program. The “wait time” of 4 to 5 months for a participant to get into an orientation and then on to a counselor has been reduced to 45 days as of March 2010. The goal is to reduce to at least 30 days. Average caseloads of career counselors is 150 per counselor. The average preferred by the state is between 75 and 90.

Jim Ryan had commented that Mayor Morrissey recently met with DCEO Director Ribley and Deputy Director Therese McMahon. He expressed the need for clear, consistent, timely communication with all entities. It was communicated to him that DCEO does believe there has been tremendous progress in dealing with the volume of people that are seeking services.

Dr. Becherer commented that that the current structure of the system does not allow the WIB Executive Director to address and intervene on issues. He would like to Executive Committee and CEOs to identify and implement changes to provide the WIB Executive Director the authority to make decisions and direct programs towards collaborative solutions, and have recourse if actions are not taken timely. Mike Williams commented that Darcy coordinates the activities of all partners and he does not believe that changing the overall administrative structure is going to get all the agencies to come together and discuss and find solutions on events that occur throughout the years. He suggested more cooperation and collaboration in a timely manner.

- III. Put Illinois to Work Program – Discussion Item:** Mike Williams explained a new program that is available for individuals that meet TANF qualifications. The program is funded by the Department of Human Services. They have contacted with Heartland Alliance to coordinate the program. Rock River Training has is a sub-contract with Heartland. The program will pay wages individuals to work through September 2010. The local goal is to put 250 people (18 and over) into subsidized employment. To qualify a person must be 18 – 21 years of age and TANF eligible. If over the age of 21, the individual must have a child and TANF eligible. The employer has one restriction and that would be that the immediate supervisor of the participant can not be paid through federal dollars. The wage for individuals participating is a set wage of \$10.00 per hour.

- IV. Unrestricted Funds – Workforce Investment Fund/Fund Development- Discussion:** Jon Bates gave an overview of the Workforce Investment Fund endowment. Unfortunately there have not been many contributions towards the endowment fund. On the positive side of it, what funds are in the endowment have appreciated by 27.26% in nine months. Jon reminded board members that this fund will generate unrestricted funds and allow the board to implement programs and activities that may not be allowable under current WIA regulations.

If members would like to contribute they may contact Jon Bates of the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois. The fund is officially called the Workforce Investment Fund.

- V. Other Business:** An ad-hoc officer nomination committee needs to be formed for the upcoming election of officers. Anyone is eligible to be on the committee, but only business partners can serve as an officer. Dr. Jack Becherer will chair the ad-hoc nomination committee. Individuals are encouraged to contact Dr. Becherer or the WIB office either by phone or e-mail to be considered for either the committee or as an officer.

The financial reports were noted.

- VI. Public Comment:** None

VIII. **WIB Adjournment:** The WIB meeting adjourned at 8:50 a.m.

Items included with the WIB meeting packets:

- 1) 05/04/10 WIB/CEO Agenda
- 2) Consent Agenda
- 3) Information Items Summary

Trudy Jackson
Boone and Winnebago Counties Workforce Investment Board

Date

(Signature affixed upon WIB approval)

(Date affixed upon WIB approval)